

Poetry.

THE RAT THAT RENOUNCED THE WORLD.

It is a legend old,
How a certain rat, grown tired of strife
And the care, that beset his ratship's life,
Wishing to meditate at his ease,
Took up his abode in a Holland cheese.
He found
This great round
Cave soft and shelter, and plenty to eat,
And by diligent use of his teeth and his feet
He soon had a hermitage quite to his mind—
Its walls and its floors with good victuals lined.
This rat
Soon grew fat,
And he said to himself, "God bless his own!
My body now is so soft and so fine,
If I but could be a hermit, I really must say
Renouncing the world is the better way."
To this choice,
On their knees,
Came some representatives from the rats,
Saying, "Happily is beset by the rats:
We are going for aid to a foreign land.
Old neighbors, do lend us a helping hand."
"We set out
Without
A dollar to pay the needful expense.
We give up a shining, or at least a few cents:
We'll be very grateful, we'll surely repay.
If we live to return on the next New Year's day."

A Noble Wife.

The Government of Missouri has recently pardoned an inmate of the Penitentiary, under circumstances which furnish a remarkable and touching instance of what a devoted, trusting, and energetic wife can do for an unfortunate husband. The latter used to live in Toledo, Ohio, and the facts of his case are vouched for by respectable journals of that place. Some time ago he removed to Missouri with his wife, and early in 1870 the events fell out that proved so disastrous to him. It appears that he was not very prosperous, and had occasion to sell—nearly the last of his possessions—a pair of fine horses. For these he received \$500 in clean, new national currency. The stock dealer who bought the horses afterward disappeared. On the next day after the sale, the vendor paid out two bills of \$10 each. It was discovered that they were counterfeit, and the utterer was promptly arrested and lodged in prison. He, of course, directly protested his innocence, and told how he got the money. The horse dealer was traced and brought forward, when, to the horror and amazement of the accused man, he stoutly denied all knowledge of the bad bills, and swore the money he had paid for the horses was in bills on Illinois banks. No confirmatory evidence of the prisoner's tale could be got, and, as much counterfeit money had lately been circulated in that region, public feeling ran strongly against him. He was tried, and, despite his earnest protestations, and his wife's determined struggles in his behalf, he was found guilty, and sentenced to five years imprisonment in the Penitentiary.

But the wife never for a moment believed "him guilty"; and, with astonishing resolution and pertinacity, she now bent herself to the task of proving his innocence and effecting his release. The latter end she first sought, and obtained interviews with the Governor of Missouri. To him she stated her case as she saw and believed it. But the Governor, although kind, was firm. The prisoner had been shown to be guilty. Counterfeiting was greatly on the increase. It was necessary to make examples, and there was every just reason why her husband should be one of them. He could hold out no hope, save in the condemned's restoration after five years. The wife went home, converted all she had into cash, and thenceforward devoted her whole time and brain to follow the horse dealer who had given her husband the spurious notes, with the hope of convicting the really guilty person of that offense.

Persuading him like a shadow, but keeping out of his sight, she soon found that when he went to a place counterfeit money was said to be in circulation there soon after. This happened at Freeport, Ill., and afterward at Fort Wayne, Ind. At the latter place she caused his arrest, but nothing could be proved against him, and he was set free. She then dogged him to Canton, Ohio, to Pittsburg, Altoona, Lancaster, Chambersburg, Philadelphia, Goshen, Birmingham, Oswego, Elmira and other towns in New York, sometimes staying two or three months in each place. The man was however, so guarded and ingenious as always to manage to cover his tracks; in fact, he never passed false "paper" himself at all, and his implacable pursuer was unable to bring him to account. At last, however, he fell ill at Newton, Sussex county, N. J., and she believed and proved that her golden opportunity was at last at hand.

When the horse dealer fell ill, the wife of his victim was at the same hotel. She found out the physician attending him, and frankly told her story. She described how she had tracked the cause of her husband's misfortune, and begged the doctor for the sake of right and justice, to help her. The physician was moved by her tale, and agreed to do what she asked, which was to give his patient some depressing but safe medicine, and adroitly lead him to think that he was in a very critical condition. This was accordingly done, and worked to a charm. The patient begged at once for a clergyman, who, arriving, pointed out the necessity of full repentance, and at this juncture, the wife entered the room, and implored the

supposed dying man to repair the great wrong he had done her husband. The result was that the sufferer made a deposition before a magistrate, confessing that he had passed the five hundred dollars, as described, and furthermore, that he was a member of an extensive gang of counterfeiters, his special business being not to utter bad money, but to spread it among confederates in different parts of the country. He also said that on the occasion of making the trade in question, he happened to have no other money, and greatly wanted the horses. Armed with this document, the now happy woman hastened back to Missouri, laid her evidence before the Governor, and had the satisfaction of carrying a full pardon to her husband almost immediately after. The two are now living joyfully together on a farm in Southern Illinois, and their case is naturally attracting abundant comment and congratulation.

How to Pick Out a Wife.

Find a girl that is 18 years old last May, about the right height, with a blue eye, and dark-brown hair, and white teeth.
Let the girl be good to look at, not to plump of music, a firm disbeliever in ghosts and one of six children in the same family.
Look well to the character of her father; see that he is not the member of any club, don't bet on elections, and gets shaved at least 3 times a week.

Find out all about her mother, see if she is a hag got a heap of good common sense, studiously well her likes and dislikes, eat some of her home-made bread and apple dumplings, notice whether she abuses all of her neighbors, ask her servants how long they have lived there, and don't fail to observe whether her dresses are last year's ones fixed over.
If you are satisfied that the mother would make the right kind of a mother-in-law, you can safely conclude that the daughter would make the right kind of a wife.

After this preliminaries are settled, and you have done a reasonable amount of sparring, ask the young lady for her heart and hand, and if she refuses, you can consider yourself ennobled.

If on the contrary, she should say yes, get married at once, without any fuss and feathers, and proceed to take the chances.
I say take the chances, for there isn't a respite for a perfect wife, any more than there is for a perfect husband.

There is just as many good wives as good husbands, and I never knew too people, married or single, who were determined to make themselves agreeable to each other, but what they succeeded.

"Name your oldest boy sum good stout name, not after sum hero, but should the first boy be a girl, I ask it as a favor to me that you kaul her Rebecker."
I do want some of them good, old-fashioned tuff girls names revived and added.
—Josh Billings.

The best time for painting the exterior of buildings is late in autumn or during the winter. Paint then employed will endure twice as long as when applied in early summer or in hot weather. In the former it dries slowly and becomes hard, like a glazed surface, not easily affected afterward by the weather or worn off by the beating of storms. But in very hot weather the oil in the paint soaks into the wood at once, as into a sponge, leaving the lead nearly dry, and nearly ready to turn to dust. This last difficulty, however, might be guarded against though at an increased expense, by first going over the surface with raw oil. By painting in cold weather, one annoyance might certainly be escaped, the collection of small flies in the fresh paint.—The Technologist.

LITTLE THINGS.—It is the fixed law of the universe; that little things are but parts of the great. The grass does not spring up full grown, by eruptions; it rises by an increase so noiseless and gentle, as not to disturb an angel's ear—perhaps to be invisible to an angel's eye. The rain does not fall in masses, but in drops, or even in the breath-like moisture of the fine mist. The planets do not leap from end to end of their orbits, but inch by inch, and line by line, it is, that they circle the heavens. Intellect, feeling, habit, character, all become what they are through the influence of little things. And in morals and religion, it is by little things—by little influences acting on us, or seemingly little decisions made by us, that every one of us is going, not by leaps, yet surely by inches, either to life or death eternal.

Air was compressed by Professor Tyndall, by means of a column of water 260 feet high, to one eighth of its original volume (120 lbs to the square inch) and then allowed to escape. As it rushed out, it expanded so violently and caused such an intense cold that the moisture in the room was congealed in a shower of snow, while the pipe from which the air issued became bearded with icicles.

There are loud complaints from the loggers of Maine about the depth of snow in the woods. They laugh at the cold, but snow three feet deep for teams to wade through is no laughing matter. It will reduce the amount of lumber put into the streams very sensibly.

Mirth should be the embroidery of conversation, not the web; and wit the ornament of the mind, not the furniture.

Singular that the word miser, so often expressed of one who is rich, should, in its origin, signify one that is miserable.

A miser grows rich by seeming poor; an extravagant man grows poor by seeming rich.

Modesty is a merit, as shades to figures in a picture; giving it strength and beauty. The passionate are like men standing on their heads; they see all things the wrong way.

He surely is most in want of another's patience, who has none of his own.

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